

North Star Teacher Named to State Education Board

Tuesday, 10 February 2009

{audio}/images/stories/mp3/090210.keplinger_boe.mp3{/audio}

Jay Barrett - Erik Wander /KMXT

North Star
teacher Janel Keplinger has been named to the State Board of Education and
Early Development.

Keplinger
will hold a public-at-large seat for a term of five years, effective March 1.
The seat was formerly held by Sylvia Reynolds.

State
Education Commissioner Larry LeDoux, who was once principal of North Star
School, described Keplinger as a caring educator who will bring a wealth of
experience to the state school board. Now Keplinger will technically be one of
LeDoux's bosses, as the state board appoints the Commissioner of Education and
Early Development, subject to approval of the Governor.

Keplinger
said she saw an opportunity to represent the needs and interests of Kodiak
education in the open seat.

-- (Keplinger 1 43 sec. "I
just thought that ... pre-school through high school.")

She said she
looks forward to serving on the state board and has contributions to make, but

that there could be a learning curve, since she hasn't served at the state level before.

-- (Keplinger 2 14 sec. "This is fairly new to me ... information
I can add to that.")

Keplinger

has been a teacher for 26 years, including being a resource teacher at Main Elementary and a kindergarten and first-grade teacher at East. She holds a bachelor of science degree in elementary education from the Oregon College of Education, and a master of arts degree in special education from the University of Northern Colorado.

The State

Board of Education and Early Development consists of seven voting members, a military adviser and a student adviser. The voting members are appointed by the governor and confirmed by a majority of the legislature. They serve staggered five-year terms.

###